(d) whether Government propose to stop the facility of refuelling?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI KAMAL MORARKA): (a) Government had permitted transit and refuelling facilities only for US Air Force transport aircraft, to be used solely for transporting non-lethal supplies and for evacuating personnel on humanitarian, medical and emergency grounds.

(b) Government had viewed the provisions of this facility as consistent with its established practices and policies.

(c) Government are aware of the reaction of Iraq. No formal protest has been received from Iraq by the Government. It has been conveyed to the Government of Iraq that the transit and refuelling facilities provided to US Air Force transport aircraft were solely for the purpose of transporting non-lethal cargo and for the evacuation of personnel on humanitarian, medical and emergency considerations.

(d) With effect from 20th February, 1991, no transit and refuelling is taking place.

"INDO-US Herpetological Project"

359. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that under the Indo-US Herpetological Project the country has been losing rare fauna since 1984 and that the National Museum of Natural History set up to promote the cause of environment protection has been flouting the rules in this regard;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the project which was supposed to last till 1987 has been extended till 1993;

(c) whether Government have inquired into the reasons for extending the project till 1993; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof stating the action taken by Government in

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SMT. MANEKA GANDHI): (a) The Indo-US Herpetological Project is a research project, undertaken by the National Museum of Natural History, New Delhi in collaboration with Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Pittsburgh, USA, to study the environmental diversity of the amphibians and reptiles in selected regions of Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra. Such of the specimens collected by field teams from selected sites as require further examination and analysis are sent to Carnegie Museum. The Project provides that 50 per cent of the collected specimens will be returned to the National Museum of Natural History after completion of their study at the Carnegie Museum.

(b) to (d) Very limited field work was reported to have been completed upto 1990. Therefore, an extension of the project for another three years was approved in terms of the memorandum of understanding governing the project.

World Bank funds for irrigation projects in India

360. DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SHRI A. G. KULKARNI:
SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SARDAR JAGJIT SINGH AURORA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the recent press reports that the World Bank has announced not to release the funds sanctioned as a loan for irrigation projects whose implementation has been delayed; if so, what are the names of such projects, State-wise; and

(b) what steps Government propose to take to convince the World Bank of Government's intention for speedy implementation?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RE-

CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Projects are M. P. Major Irrigation Project of Madhya Pradesh, Haryana Irrigation Project-II of Haryana and Maharashtra Composite Irrigation-III Propect of Maharashtra. A denial has already been issued in the press. *vide copy enclosed.*

(b) Does not arise.

PRESS RELEASE

This is reference to the news item captioned "Three Irrigation Projects-WORLD BANK SUSPENDS FUNDING" appearing on front page of Financial Express today. It has been mentioned in the above news item that the World Bank has suspended aid to the extent of 200 million SDRs (US $ 285.7 million) in respect of the following three projects:—

1. Madhya Pradesh Major Irrigation Project.
2. Maharashtra Composite Irrigation Project.
3. Haryana Irrigation Project-II.

The factual position is as under:—

The credit closing date of the Madhya Pradesh Major Irrigation Project is 30th June, 1991. Amount of assistance available for this project from the World Bank is SDR 195.3 million. The cumulative disbursement till the end of 30th September, 1990 amounts to SDR 144.1 million corresponding to 74 per cent of the credit and 77 per cent of the revised disbursement projections. With the enhancement in disbursement rate from 60 to 90 per cent (effective from 1st September, 1990), enhanced recently by the World Bank, it is expected that the undisbursed balance of credit (SDR 51.1 million) could be utilised before the credit closing date. It has been incorrectly reported that aspects relating to Rehabilitation and Resettlement alongwith delayed credit utilisation, have been responsible for suspensing of aid by World Bank. The World Bank has already allowed credit extension for a period of four years which is normally the maximum credit extension allowed by the Bank. As regards resettlement and rehabilitation, the outstanding issues have been sorted out by the Government of Madhya Pradesh with the World Bank.

The credit closing date for the Maharashtra Composite Irrigation Project is 30th June, 1991. Amount of assistance available for this project from the World Bank is SDR 164.20 million. The World Bank Supervision Mission which reviewed progress of implementation in June-July, 1990 expressed satisfaction with the overall achievements. To utilise the expected credit savings from MCIP-III, it is proposed to reformulate and expand the scope of MCIP-III by incorporating five sub-projects of the erstwhile Maharashtra Composite Irrigation Project-II. The Government of Maharashtra have decided to engage a consultant for this purpose and the consultant is expected to submit the project feasibility report by March, 1991. Further extension of credit closing date is under the consideration of World Bank. Although disbursement of credit till October, 1990 is only 26.7 $ million, with the extension of credit closing date, restructuring of the project and enhancement in the rate of disbursement from 55 to 90 per cent (effective from 1st September, 1990) it would be possible to utilise the entire external assistance being made available for this project.

The credit closing date of the Haryana Irrigation Project-II is 31st March, 1991. Amount of assistance available for this project from the World Bank is 158.5 $ million. The cumulative disbursement till October, 1990 is $ 126.3 million corresponding to 80% of the credit. Supervision Mission of the World Bank which visited this project in August, 1990 recorded its appreciation of the positive impact of water supply schemes and also expressed gentral satisfaction on tht quality of irrigation construction works. The State Government has made a budget allocation of Rs. 64.16 crores for 1990-91, which would enable reimbursement of $ 20 million as targeted this year. The State Government will have to provide an outlay of similar magnitude during 1991-92 to claim the balance credit. A further credit extension for a period of one year is presently under the consideration of World Bank.